

A survey of HI gas toward the Andromeda Galaxy

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ABSTRACT

Context. The subsequent coalescence of low-mass halos over cosmic time is thought to be the major formation channel of massive spiral galaxies like the Milky Way and the Andromeda Galaxy (M31). The gaseous halo of a massive galaxy is considered to be the reservoir of baryonic matter persistently fueling the star formation in the disk. Because of its proximity, M31 is the ideal object for studying the structure of the halo gas in great detail.

Aims. Using the latest neutral atomic hydrogen (HI) data of the Effelsberg-Bonn HI Survey (EBHIS) allows comprising a comprehensive inventory of gas associated with M31. The primary aim is to differentiate between physical structures belonging to the Milky Way Galaxy and M31 and accordingly to test the presence of a M31 neutral gaseous halo.

Methods. Analyzing the spatially fully sampled EBHIS data makes it feasible to trace coherent HI structures in space and radial velocity. To disentangle Milky Way and M31 HI emission we use a new approach, along with the traditional path of setting an upper radial velocity limit, by calculating a difference second moment map.

Results. We argue that M31's disk is physically connected to an asymmetric HI halo of tens of kpc size, the M31 cloud. We confirm the presence of a coherent low-velocity HI filament located in between M31 and M33 aligned at the sky with the clouds at systemic velocity. The physical parameters of the HI filament are comparable to those of the HI clouds at systemic velocity. We also detected an irregularly shaped HI cloud that is is positionally located close to but offset from the stellar body of And XIX.

Key words. Galaxies:individual:M31 – Galaxies:evolution – Galaxies:halo – Radio lines:ISM:HI

1. Introduction

The Local Group (LG) of galaxies is a unique laboratory for testing and investigating the formation and evolution of stellar and gaseous bodies. Already today, HI data of LG objects offer a sufficiently high-mass sensitivity to detect gaseous low mass halos of about $M_{\text{HI}} \sim 10^4 M_{\odot}$ (Thilker et al. 2004; Westmeier et al. 2008), which are orders of magnitude below those of the “building blocks” of massive baryonic halos, the dwarf galaxies (Blitz et al. 1999; Klypin et al. 1999). According to standard Λ CDM cosmology, we expect to detect massive concentrations of baryons (large spiral galaxies) in the current epoch. They are closely correlated spatially with a high number of these low mass halos (Klypin et al. 1999).

Because of the complex spatial and kinematical mixture of the individual gas clouds in the Milky Way galaxy and its halo, these building blocks are difficult to identify. Considering the strong environmental dependence of the chemical composition, as well as the heating and cooling of the different gaseous phases (Wolfire et al. 2003), the quantitative modeling demands a very careful approach (Kalberla & Kerp 2009). Consequently, diffusely distributed low column density HI structures located in the Milky Way halo and in the disk-halo interface are difficult to separate from the luminous and highly dynamic disk gas emission if not separated well in Doppler velocity.

Because of their proximity and partly significant separation in radial velocity from the Milky Way HI emission, the Andromeda (Messier 31, M31) and Triangulum (Messier 33, M33) galaxies allow investigation of diffuse low mass gaseous halo

structures. Here, we study the 21-cm line emission of neutral atomic hydrogen (HI) observed within the course of the Effelsberg Bonn HI Survey (Winkel et al. 2016; Kerp et al. 2011; Winkel et al. 2010, EBHIS).

Blitz et al. (1999) performed a comprehensive observational inventory of the LG galaxies and the high-velocity clouds (HVCs). HVCs are proposed to populate the circumgalactic environment of the massive galaxies (Westmeier et al. 2008). Their radial velocities deviate from the systemic velocities of these galaxies up to a few hundred km s^{-1} . In the case of M31, all investigations are faced with confusion at lower radial velocities than the systemic ones (see Lehner et al. 2015, Fig. 2) between M31 and Milky Way HI. Distinguishing between M31 and the unrelated Milky Way foreground, HI emission, in particular with HVC emission (Simon et al. 2006), is a major issue that we consider here.

To minimize systematic biases due to this Milky Way gas confusion, previous HI studies of M31 and its environment either focused on structures at M31's systemic velocities (Braun & Thilker 2004; Wolfe et al. 2013) around $v_{\text{LSR}} = -300 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ or instead used upper radial velocity thresholds (Thilker et al. 2004; Westmeier et al. 2005) ranging between $-160 \text{ km s}^{-1} \leq v_{\text{LSR}} \leq -140 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. For the northern portion of the Leiden/Argentine/Bonn survey data (Kalberla et al. 2005, LAB), the Leiden-Dwingeloo survey (Hartmann & Burton 1997, LDS), Blitz et al. (1999) extended the analyzed radial velocity range up to $v_{\text{LSR}} \leq -85 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and identified the “M31 cloud” apparently connected in HI emission to M31's disk.

Not only their finding but also the studies of M31's dwarf satellite system (Collins et al. 2013) motivate us to inspect this radial velocity regime more closely. For example, the dwarf spheroidal satellite galaxies And X (Kalirai et al. 2010), XXIV, XXV, and XIX (Collins et al. 2013) populate the radial velocity range $-164 \text{ km s}^{-1} \leq v_{\text{LSR}} \leq -107 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, which has so far only been marginally explored by HI observations. The lack of spatial correlation between sensitive HI observations (Thilker et al. 2004; Braun et al. 2009) and the Pan-Andromeda Archeological Survey (PAndAS, McConnachie et al. (2009)) optical data “on all scales” (Lewis et al. 2013) might be considered as a result of the applied HI radial velocity limits.

We start our analysis by exploring the EBHIS data following the classical path of setting an upper radial velocity limit of $v_{\text{LSR}} = -95 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Furthermore, we invent a new approach by calculating a so-called “difference second moment map” to disentangle coherent HI structures in the space and the velocity domain. Essential for our investigation is the sufficiently high spatial resolution that is offered by EBHIS (Kerp et al. 2011; Winkel et al. 2016). Using the difference second moment map approach, we analyze M31's HI emission up to $v_{\text{LSR}} = -25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$.

The paper is organized in six sections. Section 2 describes the EBHIS data briefly. Section 3 compiles our results of a morphological investigation and discusses the detection limits. It also comprises a comparison of the EBHIS data with previous single-dish HI observations of M31. Section 4 presents our new approach of calculating difference second moment maps to distinguish between M31 and unrelated Milky Way HI emission. Section 5 contains a discussion of the physical association of the reported gaseous structures with the Andromeda galaxy and its dwarf galaxy system. Here, the impact of the tidal interaction, galaxy impact, and proper motion of M31 as an entity against a hypothetical LG medium is discussed. Section 6 presents our summary and conclusions.

2. Data

We use EBHIS 21-cm line data from the first coverage (Kerp et al. 2011; Winkel et al. 2016, 2010). EBHIS covers the whole northern sky above a declination of -5° with a radial velocity range $-1000 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq 19000$. The EBHIS data of M31 have been extracted and processed by the standard data reduction pipeline (Winkel et al. 2010, 2016). The median root-mean-square (rms) uncertainties of the antenna brightness temperature is 90 mK for a spectral channel separation of $\Delta v_{\text{LSR}} = 1.29 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. To increase the signal-to-noise ratio for our M31 analysis, we binned spectral channels by a factor of ten. The contamination by random noise was minimized in the map presentation by generating a mask with a 5σ threshold, equivalent to 142 mK across the whole field of interest. The EBHIS angular resolution of 10.8 arcmin (2.36 kpc at the M31 distance of 752 kpc (Riess et al. 2012)) is unaffected by this filtering process.

3. Results and comparison with previous studies

Figure 1 (left panel) displays a column density map. M31 is located close to the center of the map. The HI emission from the Milky Way plane is visible along the top, while M33 is located in the lower left corner. The extent of the map is about 30° , corresponding to $\sim 400 \text{ kpc}$ at the M31 distance of 752 kpc (Riess et al. 2012). The right panel of Figure 1 shows the corresponding radial velocity map of the area of interest (see Sect. 4,

Eq. 2). Coded in colors are the intensity-weighted Doppler velocities of the gaseous structures. These first moment maps allow us to distinguish kinematically between individual coherent HI structures.

To illustrate this in more detail, we investigated the superposition of the HI gas emission toward the northern portion of M31, in particular with HVC complex H (Simon et al. 2006). Figure 2 displays the column density weighted velocity structure toward this particular area of interest. The HI gas appears to be subdivided in individual HI structures ranging in angular size between a few tens of arcmin to several degrees. All these individual HI objects are showing up as coherent HI structures in radial velocity. Figure 2 displays a continuous connection in column density and radial velocity between the M31 disk and the large extended HI structure labeled with (a) in Fig. 1.

In the following we focus on those diffuse HI emission structures that are prominent at Doppler velocities of $v_{\text{LSR}} \approx -115 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (labeled in Fig. 1, left panel with (a) and (b)). They appear to emerge from M31's HI disk. We also identified at these low radial velocities HI components positionally located close to the M31/M33 HI bridge at systemic velocities (Braun & Thilker 2004; Wolfe et al. 2013).

3.1. Leiden–Dwingeloo Survey: “M31 cloud”

A comparison of our EBHIS with low-angular resolution LDS data by Blitz et al. (1999, see Fig. 5) shows very good agreement. Blitz et al. (1999) labeled the whole HI structure positionally offset from M31's disk with a total extent of about 14 degrees as the “M31 cloud”. They discuss the striking morphology and positional agreement of the M31 cloud with M31 but felt unable to derive clear evidence of any association of the M31 cloud with M31.

3.2. Green Bank and Effelsberg Telescopes: M31-HVCs

In a dedicated sensitive HI survey with the Green-Bank Telescope (GBT), Thilker et al. (2004) mapped a $7^\circ \times 7^\circ$ region centered on the stellar body of M31. Their Fig. 2 displays the HI column density distribution, which they attribute to the M31-HVC gas. Thilker et al. (2004) calculated a spatial mask for the brightness temperature using a velocity threshold of $v_{\text{LSR}} \leq -170 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ to distinguish between M31 HI disk and unrelated Milky Way emission. As the consequence of the applied method, the M31 halo gas appears to be disconnected from M31's HI disk. Because our Fig. 1 displays the full observed HI emission up to $v_{\text{LSR}} = -95 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, we obtain a markedly different presentation. In our maps, it is possible to identify smooth, continuously connected HI filaments emerging from M31's disk instead of isolated HVCs as described by Thilker et al. (2004).

3.3. Distribution of M31–HVCs

Figure 2 of Thilker et al. (2004) shows M31-HVCs with comparable HI column densities above and below the M31's disk. The HI distribution above and below M31's stellar disk in our EBHIS maps (Fig. 1) but also in the LDS map investigated by Blitz et al. (1999) appears to be very different from these GBT results. Both display smooth and coherent HI structures rather than individual filaments. Next, we investigate whether the different selection criteria or sensitivity limitations of the all-sky survey data map cause this apparent asymmetry. For this aim we study the southeastern disk side in more detail.

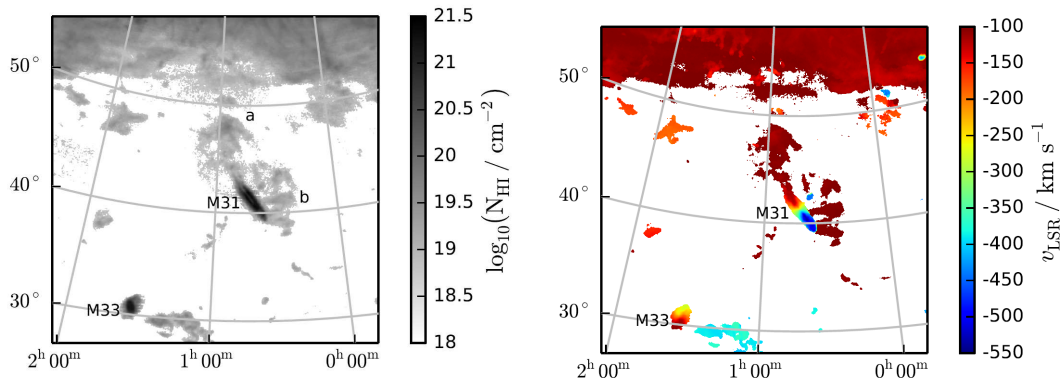


Fig. 1. Integrated column density and Doppler velocity map of M31 and its environment. *Left panel:* HI emission exceeding the EBHIS $5\text{-}\sigma$ sensitivity threshold across the radial velocity range $-600 \text{ km s}^{-1} \leq v_{\text{LSR}} \leq -95 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ is displayed. The plane of the Milky Way galaxy is visible along the top, and M33 is seen in the lower left corner. At the distance of M31, the extent of the map corresponds to 400 kpc. *Right panel:* the intensity weighted Doppler velocity map of the area of interest. Using the radial velocity information, it is feasible to distinguish between individual coherent HI structures. The rotation of both local group spiral galaxies, as well as HI emission of so-called high-velocity clouds complex H (Simon et al. 2006; Blitz et al. 1999) ($v_{\text{LSR}} \approx -200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) next to the Milky Way galaxy emission, can be identified.

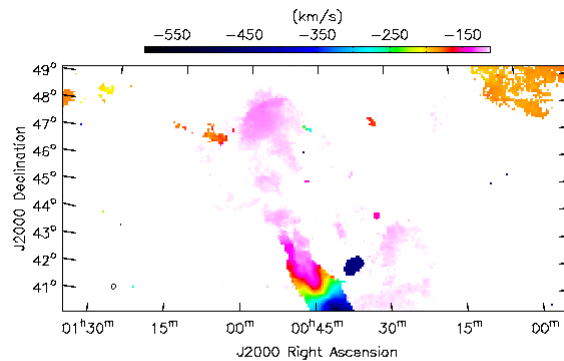


Fig. 2. First moment map toward the northern portion of the M31 HI gas distribution. Displayed are radial velocities in the range $-588 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq -110$. Here, the confusion of M31 HI gas with that of HVC complex H is most severe. This first moment map allows HI gas superimposed on a single line of sight but moving at different radial velocities to be disentangled.

The Effelsberg maps presented by Westmeier et al. (2008) show M31-HVCs located below the southeastern portion of M31’s disk. In Fig. 1 this portion of the M31 disk appears to be featureless. According to Westmeier et al. (2008), M31-HVCs HI column densities are found to be about $N_{\text{HI}} = 1 \cdot 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. Figure 3 displays the EBHIS HI column density map of M31’s gas distribution integrated across the relevant radial velocity range $-530 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq -480$. The M31-HVCs 1, 2, and 5, according to the naming convention of Westmeier et al. (2008), are significantly detected by EBHIS. The EBHIS column densities are about 25% lower than those reported by Westmeier et al. (2008). We attribute this difference to residual baseline uncertainties of the EBHIS data. However, the detection of these faint M31-HVCs in the shallow EBHIS data demonstrates the high quality of the EBHIS data processing pipeline (Winkel et al. 2016, 2010; Martin et al. 2015).

The different appearance between the northern and southern portions of M31 HI disk in the EBHIS data is significant. It is not the result of artifacts of the data processing. The EBHIS data is consistent with an extended and lopsided HI structure located

toward the northwestern portion of the M31 disk identified first by Blitz et al. (1999).

3.4. Testing the association between M31 and the M31 cloud

Figure 4 displays the EBHIS brightness temperature distribution of four subsequent velocity channels. The top left panel shows the most negative velocity channel. Faint HI emission above the $5\text{-}\sigma$ level is apparent, positionally consistent with the northern structure (a) in Fig. 1. The next channel presented in the top righthand panel reveals a much more extended HI emission patch. The bottom lefthand panel shows very extended HI emission in the northwestern halo portion of M31’s disk and the HI peaks of the filamentary structure in between M31 and M33. The bottom righthand panel displays a continuous connection between M31’s disk and these halo structures. This channel-by-channel “evolution” from a patchy to a coherent HI structure in the EBHIS data cube is suggestive of an association between M31 and the M31 cloud. The brightest portions of these coherent HI structures are positionally coincident with the HI filaments observed with the GBT (Thilker et al. 2004). Thilker et al.

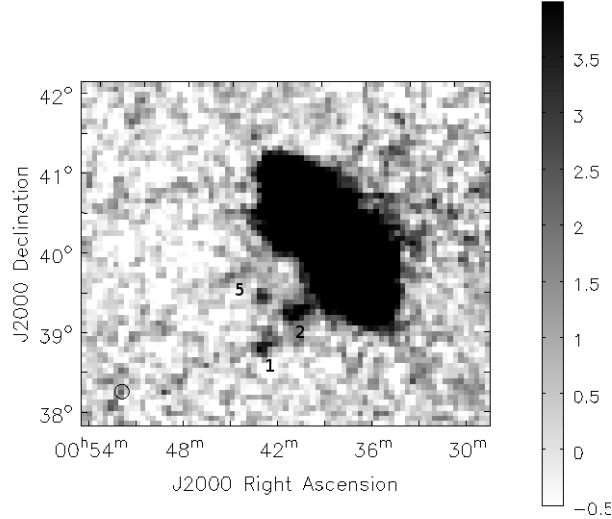


Fig. 3. Integrated ($-530 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq -482$) brightness temperature $[\text{K km s}^{-1}]$ map of the area toward Andromeda’s southeastern disk. The M31-HVCs 1,2 and 5 discovered by Westmeier et al. (2008) in that radial velocity range are also detected by EBHIS, however the EBHIS column densities are lower by about 25%. These HVCs are below the applied $5 - \sigma$ threshold applied to the other maps. To demonstrate the baseline quality of the EBHIS standard data reduction the lower brightness temperature cut has been set to -0.5 K km s^{-1} .

(2004) attributed these filaments to individual isolated M31-HVCs.

4. Separation of coherent HI Doppler velocity structures by second moment maps

Radio spectroscopic data allow to differentiate not only spatially between different sources of HI emission but also in radial velocity. In the following we show that the calculation of the so-called “difference second moment map” allows one to differentiate individual HI gas features superimposed on a single line of sight.

Moment maps offer information on total intensity,

$$M_0 = \Delta v \sum_i^N I_i, \quad (1)$$

the velocity field

$$M_1 = \frac{\sum_i^N I_i \cdot v_i}{M_0}, \quad (2)$$

and finally the velocity dispersion field

$$M_2 = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_i^N I_i (v_i - M_1)^2}{M_0}}. \quad (3)$$

In the case of an isolated HI cloud, these maps are used to trace only the information on the physical conditions within this cloud of interest and to give immediate physical meaning. Equation 1 gives the integral across the HI cloud and is a measure for its column density and eventually for its HI mass. Equation 2 comprises the information on the bulk motion of the cloud as an

entity. Equation 3 provides a measure for the velocity dispersion σ of the cloud. In particular, $(v_i - M_1)^2$ is a measure of the velocity deviation along a particular line of sight relative to the average intensity-weighted velocity field M_1 . In Eq.3, I_i weights the velocity irregularities proportional to their HI brightness temperatures. The weighting of $(v_i - M_1)^2$ with I_i is a key to disentangling accidentally confused coherent HI structures. HI objects showing up with deviating radial velocities $(v_i - M_1)^2$ from the dominant averaged gas ($\propto M_1^2 \cdot I_i$) become distinguishable in the M_2 map as discontinuities.

As an example, in case unrelated radial velocity structures are accidentally superimposed on a single line of sight, the second moment map will show up a M_2 discontinuity in comparison to the neighboring unconfused regions. The whole overlapping area will show up with an excess M_2 value that outlines the shape of the overlapping zone. The M_2 value of two crossing HI filaments, each with a FWHM of 10 km s^{-1} and both with the same brightness temperature T_B , yields $M_2 = T_B \cdot 2 \times 4.2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ at the position of the cross-over point. Spatially offset from that crossing zone, each individual filament will show up with only half that M_2 value. Thus, the second moment maps mark the location of the cross-over point of the two HI filaments by doubling the second moment value M_2 . In case that both HI filaments move with different radial velocities, the M_2 value increases proportionally. The discontinuity becomes even more obvious. But also in the case of a mediocre difference in radial velocities, the M_2 value is a sensitive tool for differentiating between both filaments spatially (see Fig. 5).

Because of the weighting of $(v_i - M_1)^2$ with the brightness temperature I_i (see Eq. 3), the column density contrast between the superimposed gas filaments is also important. Figure 5 displays the interrelation between column density contrast and difference in radial velocity of the superposed HI structures. In the case of equal column densities (1:1, meaning filament one and filament two have the same column density), the value of M_2 in-

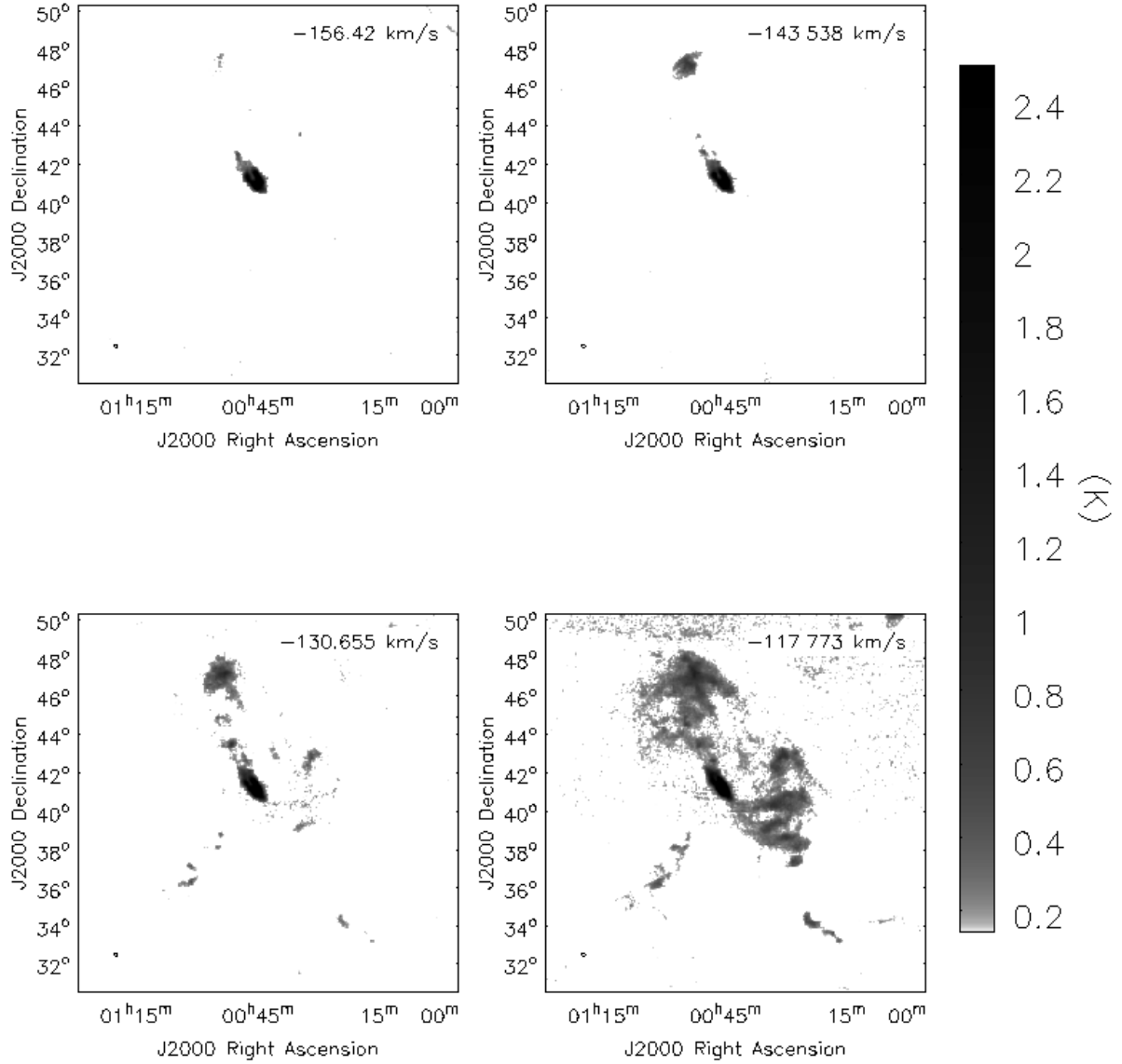


Fig. 4. Brightness temperature maps of the area of interest for four subsequent velocity channels ($\Delta v_{\text{LSR}} = 12.9 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). Displayed is the HI emission exceeding the applied $5\text{-}\sigma$ threshold of the EBHIS data. The insets in the top right corner of each panel gives the Doppler velocity relative to the local standard of rest. For display purposes, the brightness temperature is clipped above $T_{\text{B}} = 2.5 \text{ K}$.

creases rapidly proportional to the radial velocity difference of both filaments. Thus, the cross-over point can be easily identified as a discontinuity in the M_2 map even in the case of a small separation of both filaments in radial velocity (in this particular example $\Delta v_{\text{rad}} \geq 10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). In case of a 1 : 10 or even 1 : 100 column density ratio differentiating between the individual HI filaments demands a much larger separation in radial velocities between both superposed filaments. This implies that toward high galactic latitudes, with their moderate column densities with $N_{\text{HI}} \sim 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, the second moment map approach can be applied straightforwardly to identify superposed but unrelated HI emission down to $N_{\text{HI}} \sim 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-2}$.

4.1. The Milky Way galaxy column density distribution toward M31

According to the considerations above, we have to study the HI column density level of the Milky Way galaxy towards M31 and its velocity structure. The maximum of the HI column density level toward the area of interest is $N_{\text{HI}} = 3.6 \cdot 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ within $|v_{\text{LSR}}| \leq 600 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Eighty percent of this column density is associated with Milky Way HI gas observed within the low velocity range $|v_{\text{LSR}}| \leq 25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Ninety-seven percent of that diffuse N_{HI} is included by integrating across the intermediate velocity range $|v_{\text{LSR}}| \leq 50 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Finally 99% of the total column density across the whole field of interest is contained in the more extended intermediate-velocity range $|v_{\text{LSR}}| \leq 75 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Thus,

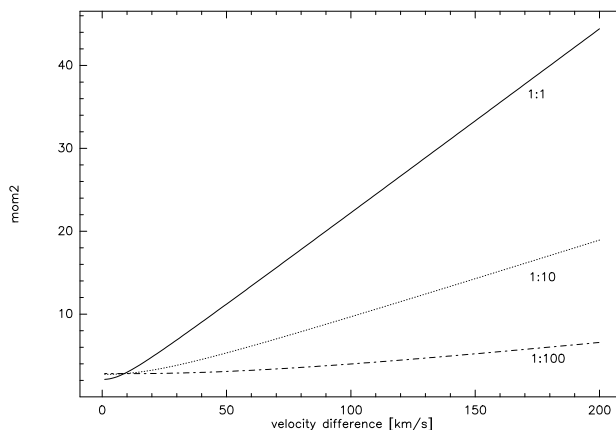


Fig. 5. Displayed are the second moments as a function of the radial velocity difference of two gas columns with the same velocity dispersion but different N_{HI} . 1 : 1 denotes the situation of a N_{HI} ratio of unity, 1 : 10 and 1 : 100 even higher column density ratios. The higher the contrast of both superimposed column densities, the larger the necessary separation in radial velocity for a significant separation of both clouds in M_2 .

the dominant fraction of Milky Way HI gas in the area toward M31 is associated with gas at low and intermediate velocities. To explore the superposition of the different HI structures significantly in the M_2 map, we exclude the low-velocity regime $|v_{\text{LSR}}| \leq 25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ from further analysis. This choice reduces the column density contrast between the Milky Way and unrelated gas by about 80%.

Figure 6 displays the zeroth moment (left panels) and the second moment maps (right panels). The moment zero map ($-588 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq -25$, Fig. 6 top left hand panel) shows M31 but is dominated by Milky Way gas. A Milky Way high column density filament, located close to the northern portion of M31’s disk, is obvious. The corresponding M_2 map displayed in Fig. 6 (top right hand panel) reveals a significantly different structure. The disk of M31 is easy to identify as is the southern streams visually emerging from it. Prominent are also the HI clouds in between M31 and M33 and isolated HI features like the Davies cloud (Davies 1975). The M_2 values of the second moment map are measures for the FWHM of the individual HI object in addition to their separation in radial velocity.

The “dominant average gas” is determined by calculating the appropriate moments maps M_0 and M_2 for the radial velocity range $-75 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq -25$. Figure 6 (bottom left) displays the zeroth moment map of that velocity interval. M31’s HI disk emission is only marginally visible next to the dominating Milky Way high latitude HI structure. Comparing both zeroth moment maps in Figure 6 shows almost the same Galactic high latitude HI column density structure. Figure 6 (bottom right) displays the corresponding second moment map M_2 . It reveals highly complex and irregular structures. This map is a measure for the line width and the velocity structure of the “dominant average gas”.

4.2. The difference second moment map toward M31

In the next step we subtract the “dominant average gas” second moment map (Fig. 6, bottom right) from the broad velocity range M_2 map (Fig. 6, top right). This difference second moment map (ΔM_2) is displayed in Fig. 7. Most of the area of interest has a ΔM_2 value of exactly zero. These areas indicate the location of Milky Way gas without any confusion with HI gas at more negative radial velocities. A high ΔM_2 value is observed toward the top righthand corner, where HI emission associated with HVC complex H is observed (Simon et al. (2006),

$-240 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq -170$). Of particular interest with respect to M31, however, is the gas with second moment values up to 10 km s^{-1} . These excess ΔM_2 values are associated with the structure displayed in Fig. 1 and apparently represent the M31 cloud. The lopsidedness of HI gas around M31 is easily traceable. Even faint HI structures covering a broad velocity range are significantly detectable due to their large offset in radial velocity from the “dominant average gas”.

The M31 cloud reveals, in particular for the northern HI structure (a), a close association with and a smooth and continuous connection to the M31 HI disk in that map. Individual M31-HVCs that were previously known are apparent (see Thilker et al. 2004, Fig. 2). They all show up with a ΔM_2 deviation value comparable to that of the M31 cloud features. This implies that the previously identified M31-HVC gas is a subset of the HI gas highlighted by the difference second moment map ΔM_2 . It does not uniquely confirm that all these gaseous structures belong physically to M31 but displays the gas not belonging to the Milky Way galaxy. The coherent large scale spatial structure displayed in the ΔM_2 map in combination with Fig. 4 is a strong argument for the striking hypothesis that the M31 cloud belongs to M31’s HI halo.

Accordingly, the second moment maps give us the chance to distinguish between coherent gaseous structures superposed accidentally and moving at different radial velocities. The absolute value of that velocity dispersion has no immediate physical meaning but is a measure of the velocity deviation of a specific structure relative to its environment.

5. Discussion

5.1. Absorption lines probing the northern HI structure

Absorption line spectroscopy contributes additional and independent information on the physical properties of the gas. M31 was the subject of a recent quasar absorption line survey (Rao et al. 2013) performed with the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) equipped with the Cosmic Origin Spectrograph (COS). Primary aim of this survey was to probe M31’s impact parameter in comparison to the higher redshifted galaxy population. Using the COS data, it is feasible to determine the ionization degree of different heavy elements to evaluate the excitation conditions across a large portion of M31’s halo. For our investigation here, the quasar sightline 0043+4234 is of major interest. It probes the northern rim of Andromeda’s HI disk. Toward this particular line

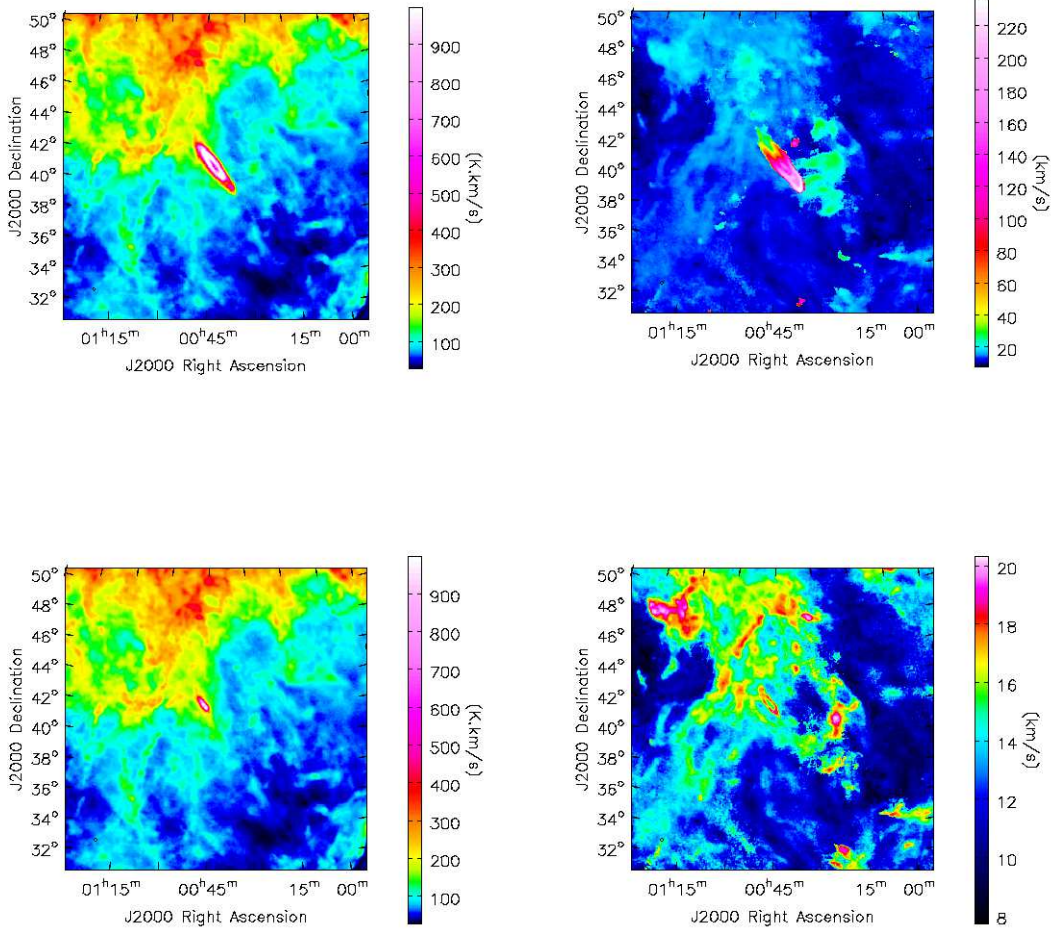


Fig. 6. Zeroth and second moment maps toward M31. *Top:* The zeroth moment (left) and the second moment map (right) calculated for the radial velocity range $-588 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq -25$ are presented. The disk of M31 is easy to identify in both maps. Prominent in the second moment map are also the lopsided HI structures displayed in Fig. 1. In addition, HI clouds along the bridge toward M33 and isolated HI features like Davies cloud (Davies 1975) show by their color coding their deviation from the Milky Way galaxy HI emission. *Bottom:* zeroth moment (left) and the second moment map (right) calculated for the radial velocity range $-75 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq -25$. About 99% of all HI in the area of interest are comprised in these maps. While the top and bottom zeroth moment maps displayed appear to differ only in the extent of M31 HI disk, the second moment maps display totally different structures. We note the very different velocity ranges of both second moment maps and the equal column density range of the zeroth moment maps.

of sight, the “deblending” technique of Rao et al. (2013) localizes the low-ionized Milky Way species at $v_{\text{LSR}} = -73 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and the high-ionized ones at $v_{\text{LSR}} = -1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. The corresponding absorption line complexes attributed to M31 are at $v_{\text{LSR}} = -233 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and $v_{\text{LSR}} = -191 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, respectively. Because absorption line spectroscopy is sensitive to column densities orders of magnitudes below the level that we detect in HI emission, the radial velocity limit for the Milky Way gas of $v_{\text{LSR}} = -73 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ is really important here. It implies that gas at more negative radial velocities are most likely not physically associated with the Milky Way galaxy.

A dedicated sensitive GBT HI spectrum toward this quasar sight line (Rao et al. 2013) is consistent with this finding, because it constrains the Doppler velocity range occupied by M31’s HI gas to $-259 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} \leq -93 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. This velocity range obviously includes the HI emission at $v_{\text{LSR}} = -115 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ asso-

ciated with the northern HI structure (a). Gas at more negative velocities than $v_{\text{LSR}} = -73 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ appear to belong to M31 and its environment and not to the Milky Way galaxy.

Adopting the hypothesis that the whole northern HI structure (a) is physically related to M31, we estimate its linear size to 20 kpc and its HI mass to $M_{\text{HI}} \geq 4.6 \cdot 10^7 M_{\odot}$. Owing to the limited sensitivity of EBHIS and the applied radial velocity limit for this mass evaluation at $v_{\text{LSR}} = -95 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ we could only determine a lower limit.

5.2. The southern HI streams (b)

Inspecting Fig. 1 (righthand panel) clearly shows that the velocity structure of the southern HI streams (b) is remarkably different from that of M31’s disk. While this part of M31’s HI disk rotates toward the Earth with velocities up to $v_{\text{LSR}} = -600 \text{ km s}^{-1}$,

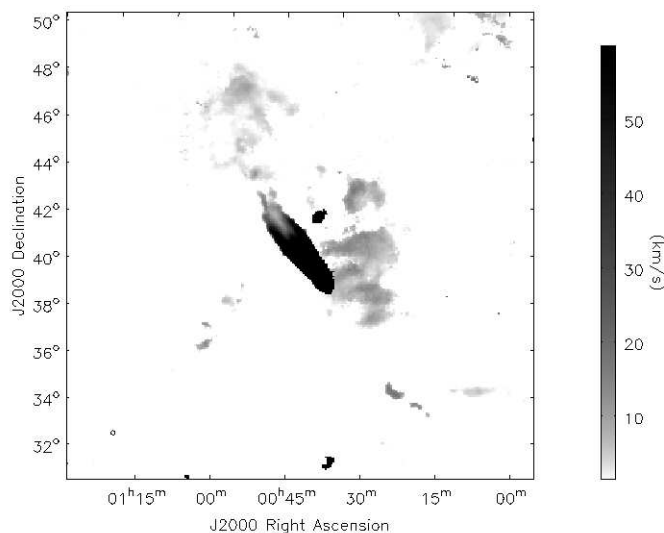


Fig. 7. Displayed is the difference second moment map (ΔM_2) calculated from the second moment map of the velocity range $-588 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq -25$ and $-75 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq -25$ shown in the righthand panels of Fig. 6. We set the lower threshold to 1 km s^{-1} .

the HI streams (b) are detected at much lower velocities around $v_{\text{LSR}} = -115 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. The gap in radial velocity between the M31 disk rotation and the base points of the filaments probably implies that the origin of the southern HI filaments is physically displaced from the approaching side of M31's disk. Also a deceleration of $\Delta v_{\text{LSR}} = 20 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ is observed from the base points to the end of the HI streams in the north.

While the HST-COS data (Rao et al. 2013) also probe this region of interest by the quasar 0032+3946 sight line, unique clues cannot be drawn from that data. Blending of the gas absorption features under investigation with the Milky Way galaxy species do not allow the relative contributions to be disentangled.

5.3. Is the shape of the M31 cloud related to the proper motion of M31?

The proper motion of M31 has been determined by HST measurements (Sohn et al. 2012). The proper motion direction is oriented approximately from the top right to the bottom lefthand corner in the representation of Fig. 1. Accordingly, the south eastern boundary of the M31 HI disk can be considered as the “leading edge”. Here, the HI emission is sharply defined along this edge, while the extra-planar M31 cloud HI emission extends towards the opposite direction. One scenario to form a lopsided HI M31 cloud is the ram-pressure interaction of M31 with an ambient medium like the warm hot intergalactic medium (WHIM, Davé et al. (2001)).

According to standard cosmology, the plasma temperature of the WHIM is assumed to be $T_{\text{WHIM}} = 10^6 - 10^7 \text{ K}$. The HI halo structures identified here have gas pressures around 10 K cm^{-3} , deduced from the HI line width, implying a WHIM volume density of $n_{\text{WHIM}} = 10^{-5} - 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

M31's space velocity, relative to the hypothetical WHIM, which is here thought to be at rest in the Local Group's gravitational potential, is $|v| \sim 40 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Diaz et al. 2014). Even in case of a $(T_{\text{WHIM}}, n_{\text{WHIM}}) = (10^6 \text{ K}, 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^{-3})$ WHIM plasma temperature, volume density combination M31 moves through the WHIM at subsonic speed ($c_s \approx 80 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). The corresponding WHIM mass densities and M31 proper motion velocity are sufficient neither to disrupt large amounts of gas from M31 disk nor to trigger enhanced star formation (Steinhauser et al.

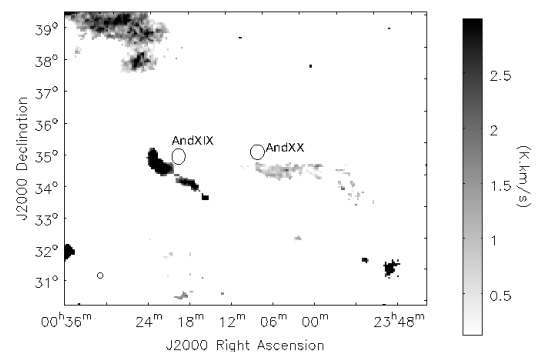


Fig. 8. Integrated ($-478 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq -117$) brightness temperature map of the area toward Andromeda XIX and XX. All HI emission above $5\text{-}\sigma$ threshold of the EBHIS data with $\Delta v = 12.9 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ is displayed. The circles denote the location of the stellar bodies (30 arcmin diameter) of both dwarf galaxies according to Collins et al. (2013).

2012) while in HI morphology an astonishing similarity to the disrupted HI disks of Virgo cluster galaxies is apparent (Chung et al. 2009).

5.3.1. Displacement between stars and gas of And XIX and And XX

While the lopsided Andromeda halo does not allow deriving conclusive evidence for any interaction between the galaxy and an ambient medium, And XIX and And XX are in this respect of particular interest here.

Figure 8 shows the EBHIS HI column density distribution toward AndXIX and AndXX. As reported by Grcevich & Putman (2009) and Spekkens et al. (2014), there is a striking non-detection of HI gas toward Milky Way dwarf galaxies but also toward Andromeda's satellite galaxies. Using the EBHIS data we can confirm the non-detection and then consistently lower their limits partly by a factor of two to ten (Kerp et al., in prep). How-

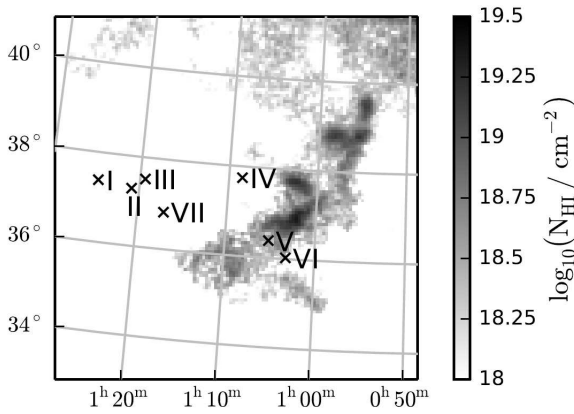


Fig. 9. Integrated column density map ($-600 \text{ km s}^{-1} \leq v_{\text{LSR}} \leq -95 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) of the HI emission in between M31 and M33. All HI emission displayed exceeds the applied $5\text{-}\sigma$ threshold of the EBHIS data. The crosses mark the location of the known HI clouds at systemic velocities (Wolfe et al. 2013). The systemic velocity clouds V and VI closely match the lower velocity clouds in position, while the others are offset by a few degrees. The low-velocity cloud population shows up as a single filament with a pronounced core-halo structure.

ever, these investigations are targeted observations pointing exactly at the stellar bodies of all these dwarf galaxies. The EBHIS column density map shown in Fig. 8 discloses HI gas close to but not at the stellar bodies of the dwarf galaxies AndXIX and AndXX. The positions of their stellar bodies are marked by the $30'$ circles in that figure. In the case of AndXIX, the HI gas has almost the same radial velocity with $v_{\text{LSR}} \approx -115 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ as the stellar component of $v_{\text{LSR}} \approx -112 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Collins et al. 2013). The HI gas is displaced from the stellar body and aligned in an extended linear filament. Also adopting the Collins et al. (2013) distance determination of 820 kpc for this HI filament yields about $M_{\text{HI}}(\text{And XIX}) \sim 3.8 \cdot 10^7 M_{\odot}$.

A similar HI structure is located close to AndXX (Fig. 8). Here, the HI radial velocity ($v_{\text{LSR}} = 117 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) is a factor of three lower than that of the stellar body. Only an ensemble of four stars could be identified to be probably associated with AndXX (Collins et al. 2013). Accordingly, improved stellar data of AndXX are important to test this positional correlation with the HI gas.

5.4. The M31/M33 HI bridge cloud population

Inspecting the whole area shown in Fig. 1, we find a population of low radial velocity HI clouds between M31 and M33; for a closer look, see also Fig. 9. These individual clouds are embedded within a common envelope of neutral gas, forming a coherent HI filament. The HI filament is located at and oriented parallel to the northern boundary of the giant stellar stream (Ibata et al. 2001, 2007).

The individual low velocity clouds of that HI filament are located in the same area of the M31/M33 bridge as the known population of systemic velocity HI clouds (Wolfe et al. 2013). Earlier, more sensitive investigations (Lockman et al. 2012) toward a neighboring region of interest also report a low-radial velocity HI gas component that has been proposed to be associated with And XV and AndII. However, these HI structures are positionally offset from those reported here, and their brightness temperatures are below our applied $5\text{-}\sigma$ cutoff. The systemic velocity clouds V and VI (Wolfe et al. 2013) coincide well in position

with the low radial velocity clouds reported here. The systemic population clouds I to IV and VII are located at larger positional offsets.

Recently, the PANDAS field (Martin et al. 2014) has been investigated again to search for foreground stellar streams out to a distance of 30 kpc from the Milky Way galaxy. The major aim of their analysis was to distinguish between Milky Way halo features and those belonging to the M31/M33 system of galaxies. None of the already known and the newly identified stellar structures are positionally coincident with the low radial velocity HI filament reported here. Accordingly, the HI filament under investigation does not appear to be associated positionally with any known Milky Way galaxy foreground structure. This suggests there is an association with Andromeda's intergalactic environment.

In contrast to the HI clouds at systemic velocities, the low-velocity HI filament reveals a pronounced core-halo structure. The low-velocity clouds cores have HI column densities around $N_{\text{HI}} \approx 1 \cdot 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. While the individual HI cores in the filament have comparable brightness temperatures, their linear extents cover a broader range of 3 to 13 kpc at Andromeda's distance, corresponding to a HI mass range of $1 \cdot 10^5 M_{\odot} \leq M \leq 17 \cdot 10^5 M_{\odot}$. We find HI line widths (FWHM) of about 30 km s^{-1} , implying upper limits for kinetic temperatures of $T_{\text{kin}} \approx 2 \cdot 10^4 \text{ K}$. These values are quantitatively comparable to those of the clouds at systemic velocities (Wolfe et al. 2013).

6. Summary and conclusions

We presented EBHIS first coverage data of the Andromeda's galaxy and its environment. Analyzing channels maps of M31 and its environment up to $v_{\text{LSR}} = -25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, we identified a smooth and coherent M31 HI halo structure north of the stellar disk. This structure was previously identified by Blitz et al. (1999) as M31 cloud. Inspecting a difference second moment (ΔM_2) map of the M31 and the Milky Way galaxy, we showed that this HI halo structure deviates significantly from the Milky Way HI gas at high galactic latitudes in the velocity regime $-75 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} [\text{km s}^{-1}] \leq -25$, which represents the dominant fraction of the HI gas. Quantitatively we used this method to identify all previously known M31-HVC structure with column densities above $N_{\text{HI}} = 1 \cdot 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. Accordingly, we proposed a physical association of the M31 cloud with M31, first described by Blitz et al. (1999). The coherent velocity pattern between Andromeda's tip of the HI disk and the northern part of the M31 cloud suggests there is a physical location of this HI structure in Andromeda's halo. The latest HST absorption line measurements (Rao et al. 2013) are consistent with the association of the M31 cloud with the Andromeda galaxy.

Toward the southern portion of Andromeda's HI disk, we observed coherent stream-like HI filaments (b) that originating at the very southeastern edge of the HI disk. These HI streams extend several degrees across the northwestern portion of M31's halo. The brightest portions of these stream-like filaments have been previously reported as individual M31-HVCs by dedicated GBT observations (Thilker et al. 2004).

Assuming that all these HI structures are associated with M31, we derived a total HI mass of about $M_{\text{halo}} = 1 \cdot 10^8 M_{\odot}$ for M31's extraplanar gas. This is less than Blitz et al. (1999) reported for the M31 cloud but our mass estimate has to be considered as only a lower limit.

While the well-defined positional coincidence of the sharp boundary of the southern part of the M31 cloud with the HI rim of Andromeda's southern disk is suggestive of ram pressure

interaction, quantitatively the HI streams appear to be too extended to only be formed by that process. The inelastic collision of dwarf galaxies with M31's stellar disk also provide a viable explanation for the existence of the stream-like HI filaments.

It is puzzling that the northern HI structure (a) and the southern HI streams (b) show up with comparable Doppler velocities. In the case of the different physical origins of both HI structures, this coincidence in radial velocity is unexpected. The same holds true for the low velocity HI filament oriented along the northern rim of the giant stellar stream between M33 and M31.

More sensitive wide-field HI studies of M31 and its environment are needed to construct a consistent view of its HI distribution. In addition to tidal forces and dwarf galaxy impacts into M31's stellar disk, the ram pressure interaction of M31 with its ambient WHIM component might be considered further. High resolution ultraviolet absorption line spectroscopy data are urgently needed to finally clarify the origin of the lopsided giant HI halo of M31.

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